



Side Event Programme – CITES PC27 and AC33

Room 4 (level -1, CICG Geneva)

PLANTS COMMITTEE

8 – 11 July 2024

Monday, 8 July

12:15-13:45

Botanic Gardens Conservation International: Collaborations to tackle illegal plant trade

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

The Internet has accelerated trade in plants and the scale of Internet purchases makes monitoring nearly impossible; it is made even more complicated as Internet trade spans multiple legal jurisdictions. The identification of plant species is problematic which further increases the difficulties in effectively managing illegal plant trade. Without real action, more species will be put at risk.

We will introduce BGCI, who we are and what we do that can support CITES Parties. Presenting our work on the conservation assessment of all tree species globally and our recent report on timber tree species. Showcasing the various tools that BGCI has available, such as PlantSearch, ThreatSearch and the GlobalTreePortal.

We will then focus on the BGCI Campaign on Illegal Plant Trade - a coming together of the world's botanic gardens to tackle illegal plant trade and our work with the IUCN Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force. Preliminary results of stakeholder surveys will be presented. The Task Force targets will be presented and we will discuss how this work can help with the implementation of CITES regulations.

Presenters will be Dr Carly Cowell (BGCI), Ms Megan Barstow (BGCI) and Mr David Newton (TRAFFIC).

17:15-18:45

Sustainable management in tropical rainforests: Practices and Principles

Association technique internationale des bois tropicaux (ATIBT)

Sustainable management of tropical rainforests encompasses a preliminary study of the forest area to be managed, as well as a set of resulting practices and principles aimed at balancing ecological integrity, economic viability, and social equity. Key practices include selective logging, agroforestry, and the establishment of conservation areas. These practices are underpinned by principles that prioritize conservation of biodiversity and environmental forest services, carbon emission reduction, and development support for local communities. Successful management hinges on robust scientific data, strong governance, and international cooperation, ensuring the preservation of these vital ecosystems for future generations while providing economic benefits to local populations.

This side event will explore the principles and regulations that guide the implementation of sustainable management measures across various tropical regions, including Central Africa, West Africa, Amazonia, and Asia. The aim is to identify common principles and effective strategies that can be applied universally while respecting local contexts and needs. The discussion will also highlight the importance of adaptive management practices and continuous monitoring to respond to socio-economic evolution and environmental challenges.

Tuesday, 9 July

12:15-13:45

CITES Rosewoods: The global picture

CITES Secretariat

'Rosewood' is a commercial term encompassing a wide range of tropic hardwoods in the Fabaceae (Leguminosae) family, which are harvested and traded primarily for crafting traditional furniture and musical instruments. In response to a decision from the Conference of the Parties (Decision 19.243), the CITES Secretariat has partnered with TRAFFIC to produce the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]" (PC27 Doc. 27). The report has allowed to identify a list of rosewoods to prioritize for upcoming capacity building efforts and has also resulted in a set of regionally representative and illustrative case studies on the implementation of the Convention for rosewood tree species.

Building on the outcomes of the rosewood report, the Secretariat is also in the process of developing a study on the conservation effects of the exemptions for rosewood tree species in response to Decision 18.321 on Annotation #15, with a focus on finished musical instruments, parts, and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof.

This side event will provide a unique opportunity to have a global understanding of the upcoming priorities for CITES listed rosewoods. Join us in shaping the future of CITES-listed rosewood tree species!

17:15-18:45

Implementation of CITES in Cameroon: What tools for effective dialogue between stakeholders?

Cameroon, Association technique internationale des bois tropicaux (ATIBT)

Effective implementation of CITES in Cameroon relies on robust dialogue among stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and the private sector. Key tools to facilitate this dialogue include stakeholder forums, digital communication platforms, capacity-building workshops, and transparent reporting systems. These tools help ensure the exchange of information, build trust, and foster collaborative decision-making, ultimately enhancing efforts to protect endangered species and promote sustainable resource use.

Wednesday, 10 July

12:15-13:45

CITES and forests: The interdisciplinary study

CITES Secretariat

CITES regulates the international trade of over 800 tree species. These species, such as rosewoods, mahoganies, cedars, and ipe, have enriched our lives with music, medicine, and more.

Through initiatives like the CITES Tree Species Project (CTSP) and its new phase, the CITES community continues to build capacity and ensure trade meets the legal acquisition findings (LAF) and non-detriment findings (NDF) requirements. The success of these initiatives stems from collaboration with range States, importing Parties, industry stakeholders, the academic community, donors, and partners of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including CBD, FAO, ITTO and IUFRO.

By promoting legal and sustainable practices, we align sustainable trade in forest products with global goals for forests, biodiversity, and climate. However, there had not been a systematic way to map and document CITES' contributions to forests and global policy...until now.

Following a Conference of the Parties directive (Decision 19.32) the CITES Secretariat, in partnership with CONABIO, is conducting an interdisciplinary study on the Convention's contributions to forest conservation. Join us to explore initiatives on CITES-listed species and provide feedback on this ongoing study. Help us shape the future of CITES and forests!

17:15-18:45

Evaluation of CITES-listed timber imports into the European Union – State of play and discussion of the evaluation criteria under the EU Wildlife trade regulations

EU and its Member States

CITES is implemented in the EU through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (EU WTRs). In line with Paragraph 1 of Article XIV of the Convention, the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures.

The EU and its MS has been discussing sustainability criteria relevant for the NDF-making process within the EU since 2018. A document has been drafted to guide evaluations of imports of timber into the EU taken from species that are listed on Annex B of EU regulation 338/97.

The guidance document is still in its drafting stage with some key questions and considerations still being discussed. The EU and its MS wishes to present its main considerations for this guidance to the CITES community and invite Parties, observers, and experts to contribute to give their views to the compilation of this guidance.

Thursday, 11 July

12:15-13:45

No side event scheduled.

17:15-18:45

No side event scheduled.

JOINT SESSION
12 – 13 July 2024

Friday, 12 July

12:15-13:45

Launch of the CITES Export Quota Tool

CITES Secretariat

The CITES Secretariat will present the new CITES Export Quota Tool before its upcoming launch. The new tool will allow Parties to upload their nationally managed export quotas directly on the CITES website. The side event will include a presentation of the tool by the CITES Secretariat, followed by a hands-on workshop allowing participating Parties to try the new tool to upload their export quotas.

17:15-18:45

No side event scheduled.

Saturday, 13 July

12:15-13:45

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Use and application in CITES

IUCN

IUCN invites you to a side event showcasing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and its critical role in the implementation of CITES. This session will highlight how the Red List informs and enhances CITES processes and detail important updates to the Red List since CoP19, including the first global reptile assessment, first global tree assessment and the second global shark and ray reassessment. Furthermore, experts from IUCN, SSC Specialist Groups and Red List Partnership organisations will share insights on how the Red List is helping to guide and build capacity among CITES policy makers and stakeholders through innovative scientific methods, guidance documents and online tools.

Invited speakers:

Richard Jenkins/ Oliver Tallowin - IUCN

Megan Barstow - Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Dan Challender - University of Oxford

Rima Jabado – IUCN SSC Deputy Director and IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group Chair

17:15-18:45

No side event scheduled.

ANIMALS COMMITTEE

15 – 19 July 2024

Monday, 15 July

12:15-13:45

NDF Support Tool

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

This side event will introduce a new online NDF Support Tool to assist SA's with non-detriment findings. The tool brings together, for the first time, over 30 species and trade datasets used in the NDF process onto a single platform. Users can search by CITES-listed species and country/territory locations to quickly explore and compile data they need for assessments - this gives a starting point in deciding what level of risk might be posed by international trade.

17:15-18:45

Progress toward national plans of action for seahorses (Decision 19.229)

IUCN

The IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish, and Seadragon Specialist Group (IUCN SPS SG) is hosting a side event where Parties will share their progress on Decision 19.229. This decision urges those with evidence of illegal or unsustainable international trade in dried seahorses to create national or regional action plans to enhance CITES implementation for these species. Several Parties have made good progress on this issue, and this event will provide an opportunity for them to share updates on their efforts and discuss future steps.

Confirmed speakers include:

Dr Sarah Foster, IUCN SPS SG, Canada

Dr Ratanawalee Phoosawat, Department of Fisheries, Thailand

Invited speakers include CITES Authority representatives from Indonesia, Peru and the Philippines.

Tuesday, 16 July

12:15-13:45

No side events scheduled.

17:15-18:45

Hidden threats beyond the fin trade: Ongoing trades impacting sharks and rays

Wildlife Conservation Society

The global trade in shark meat – Presenter: Aaron MacNeil

The trade in stingray leather and other products – Presenter: Rima Jabado

The trade in deep water shark oil – Presenter: Brit Finucci

The ongoing trade in CITES listed manta and mobula gills – Presenter: Nuno Barros

Wednesday, 17 July

12:15-13:45

Building a wildlife economy: Sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Zambia, African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI)

The side event will focus on the importance of building a wildlife economy that balances sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. It will highlight the role of the wildlife economy in supporting biodiversity conservation, community livelihoods, and economic growth.

Objectives:

1. Provide a platform for diverse stakeholders: The event will bring together experts from various sectors, including government agencies, local communities, indigenous groups, and the private sector, to share insights and experiences on the wildlife economy.
2. Examine challenges and opportunities: The event will discuss the challenges and opportunities of wildlife-based economies globally, including issues related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, community empowerment, and wildlife trade regulations.
3. Highlight innovative approaches: The event will showcase successful examples of innovative approaches to sustainable wildlife management and conservation, including cost recovery programs, environmental charges, and other instruments to fund conservation efforts.

17:15-18:45

The global fish maw trade, its impact on marine species including CITES listed species, and how CITES can help regulate the trade

Animal Welfare Institute

This side event will examine the impact of the global trade in fish maws on target species (croakers) as well as CITES listed species including small cetaceans, sharks, rays, and other marine organisms. While CITES has engaged for years in efforts to address the illegal trade in totoaba maws to protect the vaquita porpoise, recently published scientific studies demonstrate that the trade in fish maws is expanding, is dramatically impacting various croaker species, and is adversely affecting CITES listed marine species. The side event will include presentations on; the impact of the trade on croaker species; on CITES listed dolphins, sharks, rays, and other marine species; an analysis of Mexico's ongoing efforts to implement its Compliance Action Plan on totoaba; and a concluding presentation on the actions CITES can take to understand and respond to the growing trade in fish maws. Event speakers may include Zak Smith (Natural Resources Defense Council), Tanya Sanerib (Center for Biological Diversity), DJ Schubert and Sue Fisher (Animal Welfare Institute), Stan Shea (Bloom Associates), as well as potential video presentations by a member of the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group and Brian Smith (Wildlife Conservation Society).

Thursday, 18 July

12:15-13:45

Integrating environmental and fisheries worlds to better conserve sharks

The Shark Trust

A Shark League – WCS Side Event

International trade is a key driver in the global shark and ray overfishing crisis. Because sharks and rays are perceived as both commodities and wildlife, governments' approaches to conservation under fisheries and environment agreements are often misaligned. Proper implementation at the national level is vital to the success of international safeguards, regardless of the overarching treaty.

Analysis by the Shark League coalition, previewed at AC32, evaluates the performance of Parties to the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) with respect to various conservation obligations for Atlantic shark and ray species listed under CITES. This side event will highlight key gaps and recommendations from the final report. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) will provide global context to these findings, particularly with respect to CITES compliance action, and tools available to support Parties to implement CITES shark listings.

WCS, Shark Trust (ST), and Shark Advocates International (SAI) collaborate toward shared goals under grants from the Shark Conservation Fund. ST and SAI, along with Ecology Action Centre and PADI AWARE Foundation, are founding members of the Shark League.

Speakers:

Sonja Fordham, President, Shark Advocates International

Ali Hood, Director of Conservation, The Shark Trust

Luke Warwick, Wildlife Conservation Society

17:15-18:45

No side event scheduled.

Friday, 19 July

12:15-13:45

No side events scheduled.

17:15-18:45

No side events scheduled.
